

# MISSOURI

## Migrant Education and English Language Learning

Title I-C and Title III  
of the No Child Left  
Behind Act of 2001  
has been reorganized  
as the **Missouri Migrant  
Education and English  
Language Learning**  
program. The reorganization  
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In Missouri, the Title I-C and Title III programs of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001 have been reorganized as the Missouri Migrant Education and English Language Learning (MELL) program. The reorganization has been in progress since the NCLB Act was signed.

This reorganization is designed to use existing resources to better serve English Language Learners (ELL) and migrant students. The MELL program will prevent duplication of services and allow most of the funds to reach districts with needy children. There are nine Regional Professional Development Centers (RPDCs) where MELL staff provides the service delivery. Each center is staffed with at least one recruiter and one instructional specialist (except for two centers of very low incidence that have one person fulfilling both roles). One office also has an identification and recruitment coordinator.

The MELL director coordinates the nine regional centers from an office in Jefferson City that is under the contract the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has with the Jefferson City School District. DESE funds the nine MELL centers and the coordinating office through contracts with school districts or institutions of higher education. DESE also allocates funding to school districts for direct services to the targeted students.

The nine regional centers are located in Malden (Malden School District), Columbia (Columbia School District), Kansas City (University of Missouri-Kansas City), Kirksville (Truman State University), St. Joseph (St. Joseph Public Schools), Rolla (University of Missouri-Rolla), Monett (Monett School District), St. Louis (Cooperating School District) and Sedalia (Sedalia School District).

**GOALS** The main purpose of the MELL program is to provide quality services and build capacity in the school district as outlined in the Title I-C and Title III of the NCLB Act. The specific goals are:

- to ensure that Title I-C and Title III funds are expended appropriately according to their respective purposes as stated in the NCLB Act;
- to ensure that the school districts are given the best technical assistance possible to build capacity in delivering services to ELL and migrant students and their families;
- to provide the best technical assistance possible for school districts to comply with federal and state laws and requirements for the education of ELL and migrant students;
- to provide the best technical assistance possible for school districts to identify, recruit and enroll all ELL and migrant students;
- to provide the best technical assistance possible for school districts to build capacity to develop educational programs and strategies that will empower parental involvement in the education of ELL and migrant students;
- to provide the best technical assistance possible for school districts to enhance English-language proficiency, academic performance and achievement of the same student population; and
- to ensure the best coordination possible between DESE and the contracting institutions in policy compliance enforcement and service delivery to school districts.

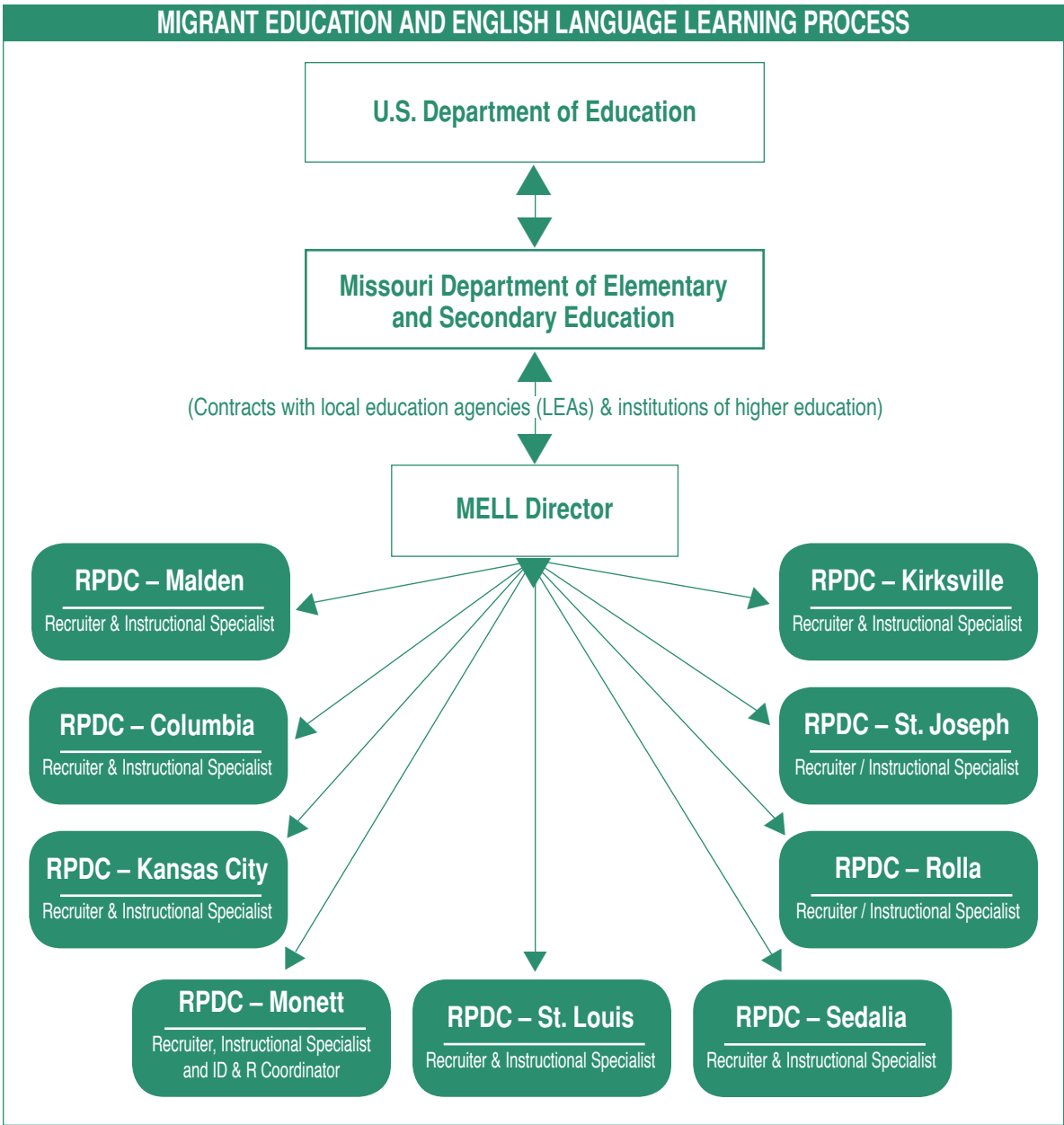
**SERVICE DELIVERY** The MELL program is designed to provide extensive technical assistance in a timely manner to school districts. The program does not include direct services to students. The state is divided into nine regions, and each region hosts a center in a strategic location. DESE conceptualizes the services to be delivered and provides training to the staff at the centers. Technical assistance to districts includes, but is not limited to, general requirement compliance from identification to program design, assessment and service-delivery strategies. Through its regional staff, the MELL office implements DESE policies by helping districts build the capacity to design, implement, monitor and evaluate sound English language learning and migrant education programs.

In addition, technical services focus on the design of programs stemming from sound, researched educational strategies from program conception to implementation procedures to evaluation strategies. The MELL program staff also locates migrant families to verify eligibility, ensures recruitment, and guides the districts in service delivery to migrant students and families. The MELL

staff may also model good service delivery practices, particularly in districts that are new to providing services to ELL and migrant students. Finally, the MELL director monitors the technical assistance staff to ensure that the message from the state to the schools is accurate and appropriate.

The school districts provide services directly to migrant and ELL students and their families. They work collaboratively with the MELL staff to locate community resources for ELL and migrant students and their families.

In summary, DESE conceptualizes the policies within federal requirements, the MELL program bridges the delivery of policies to districts with technical support for compliance and instruction, and the school districts are responsible for implementation of policies and instruction, including program design. Each party ensures the monitoring and evaluation of its respective responsibilities. Missouri School Improvement Program (MSIP) is the state body that ensures that all districts are in compliance and that all students, including migrant and ELL students, are receiving services as required by state and federal laws and that are appropriate to their needs.



**SERVICE MONITORING** The MELL director, located at the central office in Jefferson City, ensures that all MELL staff is extending services to all school districts within their regions. DESE staff works collaboratively with the MELL office to discuss issues and find solutions to any challenges. Collaboration and idea sharing remain the strongest links between the MELL program director and the state in the MELL program monitoring. This is an ongoing monitoring process to improve the MELL program.

**SERVICE EVALUATION** DESE is responsible for evaluating the MELL program and making appropriate accommodations. The program design has enough flexibility to allow the MELL central office and DESE to conduct internal and external performance evaluations using strategies that include regional reports and checklists. Districts' reports to DESE will be analyzed and will provide a method for pinpointing issues and ways to improve the MELL program. The MELL staff and DESE are responsible for conducting regular meetings to adjust the program. The MELL program evaluation will be ongoing.



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